

LIVESTOCK PRODUCER IN NAMIBIA

WHAT I NEED TO KNOW AND DO



**Meat Board
Of Namibia**

INTRODUCTION

Livestock producers in Namibia have a number of responsibilities and obligations to legally own, keep, rear and market livestock. This booklet provides a short guide to these responsibilities and obligations. For complete guidelines, rules and standards, please download the Animal Identification Regulations (2017), Animal Health Act (Act 11 of 2011), Stock Brands Act (Act 24 of 1995), FAN Meat Rules and FAN Meat Standards for Producers from the Meat Board website (www.nammic.com.na). Producers to take note of penalties for non-compliance as stipulated in the legislation.

GUIDELINES FOR NEW AND UPCOMING LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS

The first steps to be taken when becoming the owner of livestock, or wanting to become the owner of livestock, are the following:

STEP 1: Apply for a Stock Brand. ALL livestock owners MUST own a brand to legally own livestock. Application forms for stock brands can be obtained at State Veterinary offices across the country. Stock brand applications must be accompanied by the following documents:

New Applications:

- certified copy of the ID of the applicant;
- the completed and signed application form (Form BR 1);
- proof of ownership of land or lease agreement in the case of commercial areas, resettlement farms and townlands;
- traditional authority letter confirming residence and farming in the case of communal areas;
- founding statements in the case of a company or closed corporation; and
- proof of payment.

For **transfer of brands**, please contact the Stock Brands office to verify the documents needed: 061 275 840 / 061 275 842/ stockbrand@nammic.com.na / lalie@nammic.com.na

STEP 2: Apply for a Meat Board Producer number. To legally market livestock or livestock products in Namibia, you have to register as a Producer with the Meat Board of Namibia. Application forms can be obtained from all State Veterinary and Extension offices or you can download the form from the Meat Board website (www.nammic.com.na) and submit to the marketing division at mrkassistant@nammic.com.na (Tel: +264 61 275 858).

STEP 3: Link your Stock Brand with the Establishment on which the livestock will be kept on the National Database. Once you receive your brand certificate and card, you need to go to the State Veterinary office of the area in which the livestock will be kept OR alternatively to the NamLITS head office in Windhoek, to link the establishment with the stock brand on the Namibian Livestock Identification and Traceability System (NamLITS).

Once the previous 3 steps have been completed you are set to purchase livestock.

STEP 4: Identify Livestock in accordance with regulations of the Stock Brands Act (Act 24 of 1995) and the Animal Identification Regulations in terms of the Animal Health Act (Act 01 of 2011).

- **Purchased Cattle:** All cattle must be branded with the registered brand of the owner within 30 days of becoming the owner of the cattle, in the prescribed manner and order. (See page 6) All cattle must also be individually identified using the official ear tags as distributed by the Meat Board of Namibia. If you purchase cattle, these cattle will already have ear tags and will already be registered on NamLITS. The ear tag number serves as the ID number of the animal, and must not be removed for the entire lifetime of the animal, unless the ear tag has become damaged or lost, in which case the tag must be replaced on NamLITS with a new tag;
- **Purchased Sheep and goats:** Small stock must be identified with the stock brand of the owner within 30 days of becoming the owner of such small stock by using ear tags or by using tattoos placed on the inside of the ear. When you purchase small stock, these animals will already have ear tags or tattoos displaying the stock

brand of the previous owner – these tags must not be removed. The tag with the stock brand of the new owner must be placed in the prescribed manner.

STEP 5: Register livestock on NamLITS. In accordance with the Animal Identification Regulations in terms of the Animal Health Act (Act 01 of 2011) all livestock MUST be registered on the National database (NamLITS). With your purchase of livestock, you could only move the livestock to your registered establishment (farm) with a movement permit and movement notice. For cattle, specific individual ear tag numbers will appear on the movement notice. For small stock, the number of animals to be moved will be endorsed on the animal movement permit.

This movement permit and notice must be returned to your nearest State Veterinary office within 21 days of the date of issue to capture the information. Once the information has been captured, the animals will now appear on your herd statement.

Congratulations! You are now set up as a legal livestock producer in Namibia!

GUIDELINES FOR ALL LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS (NEW AND ESTABLISHED)

This section describes the obligations and requirements for ALL producers in Namibia.

1. Record Keeping: It is the responsibility of all livestock producers to keep prescribed records in the prescribed manner. These are the records that MUST be kept:

- Animal Treatment and Vaccination Register (Form 25 as per the Animal Identification Regulations)
 - Feeds and Lick Register (FAN Meat Form B)
 - Employee Training (FAN Meat Form C)
 - Prescribed Animal Register (Form 23 Animal Identification Regulations)
 - Receipts of Animal Movement Permits
 - Proof of Animal Movement Notices submitted (Form 27 of Animal Identification Regulations)
 - Annual Management Plan
 - Imported Prescribed Animal Register (Form 26 Animal Identification Regulations)
 - Proof of Return of Animals on Registered Establishment submitted (Animal Health Declaration) (Form 24 Animal Identification Regulations)
 - Proof of Animal Termination Notice Submitted (Form 30 Animal Identification Regulations)

 - Proof of Animal Slaughter Notice Submitted (Form 31 Animal Identification Regulations) (local abattoirs)
- These records will be verified during on-site inspections conducted by Veterinary officials and / or Meat Board officials. All these records can be kept electronically on NamLITS online (www.namlits.com).

The following documents must be returned to the State Veterinary office within the prescribed time period:

- Animal Termination Notice (form 30 as per the Livestock Identification Regulations) (issued by the Directorate of Veterinary Services) for loss or on-farm slaughter of officially tagged livestock – must be submitted to the district DVS office within 21 days of confirming the loss or date of slaughter. (This function is also available on NamLITS online)
- Animal Movement Permit accompanied by the Animal Movement Notice (Departure/ Arrival) must be submitted to the destination DVS office within 21 days from the date of issue.
- The Animal Health and FAN Meat Self-declaration (Form 24 as per the Livestock Identification Regulations: Return of animals on Registered Establishment) to be filled in twice a year every year for the periods January to June and July to December and to be submitted to the state veterinary office or submitted on NamLITS online before the end of July (for the January to June period) and before the end of January (for the July to December period) respectively.

- Animal Registration Cards – for livestock with official ear tags to be submitted to the State Veterinary office for registration on the central database within 14 days after the ear tags were attached or required to be attached to the animal. (Also available on NamLITS online)

2. Animal Identification: all livestock in Namibia must be identified in the prescribed manner (See pg 8-11):

- **CATTLE:** Brand identification of cattle is compulsory before or at the age of six months. However, if a producer intends to remove cattle from the farm before they reach the age of six months, it is mandatory to mark them with the owner’s registered stock brand symbol before the removal. If animals are bought or otherwise legally acquired, they must be branded with the new owner’s stock brand within 30 days of change of ownership.

Size, form and position of the brand must follow the current legislation. Cattle to be exported must be branded with an “N” on the left neck and cattle imported must be branded with a “(-)” on the left neck.

All cattle born in Namibia must be individually identified the latest at the age of six months using a set of official identification ear tags. All cattle must be registered on the central database within 14 days from attaching the official ear tags. The ear tags remain for life, regardless of changes in ownership, the new owner is only required to add his/her brand mark at the next available brand area as per the branding sequence according to the Stock Brands Act 24 of 1995 (See page 6). Imported cattle must be tagged with red ear tags obtainable from the State Veterinarian and registered on NamLITS within 7 days of import.

- **SMALL STOCK:** Small-stock are currently identified by means of group identification based on the owner’s registered stock brand on a metal ear tag or a tattoo. Sheep and goats must be marked using a metal ear tag or tattoo in the left ear before they are older than three months. If animals are bought or otherwise legally acquired, the old ear tag/tattoo remains, but they must, within 30 days, be marked with the new owner’s registered stock brand according to the legislation (See page 7). Imported small stock must be branded with a “(-)” on the left cheek and must be tagged with red ear tags obtainable from the State Veterinarian and registered on NamLITS within 7 days of import.

3. Registration of livestock on NamLITS: all livestock MUST be registered on the National database after identification. In the case of cattle, the individual ear tag numbers must be registered on NamLITS, and in the case of small stock, the number of small stock on the establishment (farm) must regularly be updated on NamLITS. When you purchase ear tags, you will receive the registration cards which must be completed. Small stock numbers must be updated at the State Vet office.

No livestock may be moved from or to any establishment if not registered on NamLITS.

4. Livestock Traceability: Livestock may only move when accompanied by a valid Animal Movement Permit and Movement Notice. These permits can be obtained from the State Veterinary office or on NamLITS online.

A movement permit must be issued from the establishment of origin to the establishment of destination. In other words, if livestock are to be loaded on one truck from various establishments (farms) a permit must be obtained for each establishment.

After the movement has taken place, the Animal Movement Permit and Movement Notice MUST be returned to the nearest State Veterinary Office within 21 days of the date of issue and a receipt obtained. The receipt must be filed.

5. Compulsory vaccinations: In accordance with the Animal Health Act (Act 01 of 2011), the following vaccinations are compulsory:

- Vaccination of all cattle against anthrax once a year
- Vaccination of female cattle against brucellosis between the ages of 3 and 11 months
- Vaccination of dogs and cats against rabies infection every three years (in some areas of high risk it must be done every year)

- Although not compulsory, it is highly recommended that cattle be vaccinated on an annual basis against Rabies. It is also recommended that Lumpy Skin Disease be included in the on-farm vaccination regimen.

Records of all inoculations and treatment must be kept in the Veterinary On-farm Drug and Treatment Register (FAN Meat Form B). Invoices and empty bottles /containers must be kept and presented as proof during farm inspections. (Keep invoices for 3 years and empty bottles / containers for at least 1 year).

It is recommended that a veterinarian be consulted for recommendations on other routine vaccinations like Botulism, Tetanus, Pulpy Kidney, Pasteurellosis, Lumpy skin disease, Bluetongue, African Horse Sickness, Rift Valley Fever, Infectious Bovine Rhino-tracheitis and Black Quarter.

6. Levy Returns: The Meat Board of Namibia was established through the Meat Industry Act (Act 11 of 1981) and levies are payable upon the marketing of controlled products. Controlled products according to the Act mean livestock, meat or meat products.

A levy return must be submitted to the Meat Board when livestock are sold or slaughtered (be it for sale or own use). The levy return should be submitted to the finance division of the Meat Board (Please contact the office at 061 275 837).

When livestock are sold through auctions or to export abattoirs, the Meat Board levy is deducted by the auctioneer or abattoir respectively.

7. Updating Producer Registration details: Registration as a producer with the Meat Board of Namibia is compulsory and registration details must be updated every 5 years in the case of livestock producers and annually in the case of local abattoir operators.

8. Animal Welfare: It is the responsibility of producers to familiarise themselves with animal welfare standards and requirements for the keeping, rearing, handling, transporting and slaughtering of livestock.

Animal welfare standards are prescribed in the FAN Meat standards of which each producer must have a copy. The standards are based on the five freedoms and apply to every aspect of livestock keeping, rearing, handling, transporting and slaughtering:

1. Freedom from hunger and thirst
2. Freedom from discomfort
3. Freedom from pain, injury or disease
4. Freedom to express normal behaviour
5. Freedom from fear and distress

9. Banned and controlled substances: It is the responsibility of producers to know which products may or may not be used in livestock rearing in Namibia.

No feeds containing ingredients obtained from ruminants (carcass meal, blood meal, bone meal or any other bone product, including hoofs and horns, meat meal or meat) or seal oil or chicken manure may be acquired, disposed of, sold or fed to ruminants.

No growth promoters or other illegal substances as described and listed in the legislation may be used. Feed must not contain any feedstuff known for excess heavy metal and pesticide disposition.

The synchronization of heat in livestock for the purpose of concentrated breeding, artificial insemination or embryo transfer may only be done with the knowledge of the State Veterinarian and with the products as permitted by law. Proper record keeping is compulsory. Very strict withdrawal periods are prescribed by law and must be adhered to. Drugs may only be administered by registered veterinarians.

10. Sustainable Production: Good agricultural practice, pasture management and drought preparation is the responsibility of each producer. Producers should familiarise themselves thoroughly with the environment in which they farm in order to use suitable farming methods and well adapted livestock.

11. Farm Assured Namibian Meat Scheme: The Farm Assured Namibian Meat (FAN Meat) Scheme was developed in a collaborative effort between the Meat Board of Namibia (MBN) and the Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS) following an Industry decision for the safeguarding of Namibian meat markets. The scheme was endorsed by Cabinet in 1998.

The FAN Meat Scheme rules and standards are based on National Legislation combined with Good Agricultural Practice and Animal Welfare principles.

The FAN Meat value chain includes Producers at farm level, and non-producers, which are: Livestock Feed Manufacturers, Agents and auctioneers, Transporters, Feedlots and Export Abattoirs.

The Farm Assured Namibian Meat Scheme Logo symbolizes assurance for safety, wholesomeness, quality and traceability of Namibian export meat. The logo also assures consumers of Namibian meat of animal welfare and sustainable production.

Producers should familiarise themselves with the rules and standards of the scheme to ensure compliance.

NAMLITS ONLINE

All producers can register on NamLITS online (www.namlits.com), which is an online platform and can be used as a livestock identification, traceability and marketing tool. The tool was designed to assist producers with compliance with identification, traceability and marketing requirements in Namibia. This tool allows producers to check the status of establishments (restricted or not), order ear tags, register ear tags, replace ear tags, terminate livestock, apply for movement permits online, capture movement notices as well as submit Meat Board levy returns, check herd statements, keep records and submit Animal Health Declarations. Guidelines on the use of NamLITS online can be downloaded from the Meat Board website (www.nammic.com.na) or can be requested from the FAN Meat office.

CONTACT DETAILS

FAN Meat Head office:	+264 61 275 844 Fanmeat@nammic.com.na
Chief FAN Meat:	+264 61 275 856 Chfanmeat@nammic.com.na
FAN Meat NamLITS Helpdesk:	+264 61 275 851 / 853 / 879 / 861 enquiries@nammic.com.na , enquiries2@nammic.com.na Uasora@nammic.com.na Anna@nammic.com.na
FAN Meat Ear Tag office:	+264 61 275 863 / 864 / 865 eartags@nammic.com.na eartags2@nammic.com.na saraphia@nammic.com.na
FAN Meat Stock Brand office:	+264 61 275 840 / 842 stockbrand@nammic.com.na lallie@nammic.com.na
NamLITS Online:	www.namlits.com
DVS NamLITS Head office:	+264 61 258 501
Meat Board Marketing division: Producer Registrations:	+264 61 275 855 +264 61 275 858 mrkassistant@nammic.com.na
Meat Board Levy Submissions:	+264 61 275 837 MBAccClerk@nammic.com.na
Meat Board of Namibia:	+264 61 275 830 info@nammic.com.na www.nammic.com.na

IDENTIFICATION OF LIVESTOCK IN NAMIBIA

ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION REGULATIONS OF ANIMAL HEALTH ACT (ACT 01
OF 2011)

STOCK BRANDS ACT (ACT 24 OF 1995)

CATTLE

2- Tag cattle
by the age of 6
months.

Button tag in
the left ear.

Visual tag in the
right ear.



1-

Brand
cattle by
the age of
6 months

SHEEP & GOATS

2- Sheep and
goats exported
to South Africa
tagged with
official tags in
left ear



1- Tag or
tattoo all sheep
and goats by
the age of 3
months



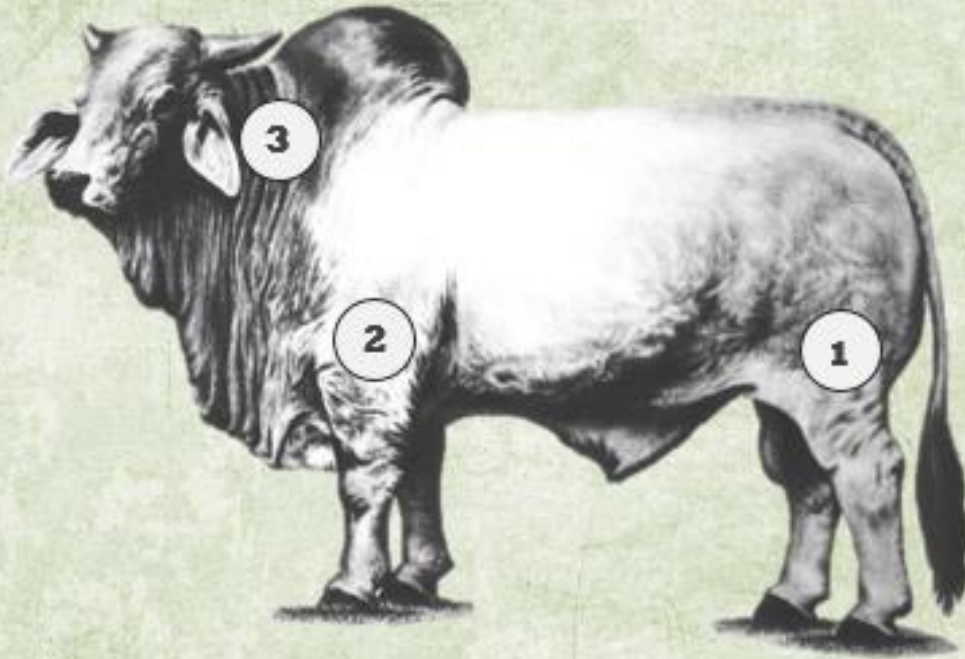
PIGS

All pigs must receive an ear tattoo with
the owner's stock brand.



BRANDING OF LIVESTOCK

STOCK BRANDS ACT (ACT NO 24 OF 1995)



BRANDING IRON SIZE

A

Min 30mmx30mm

A

Max 100mmx100mm

BRANDING ORDER

- ❖ 1st owner: left hind leg
- ❖ 2nd owner: left shoulder
- ❖ 3^d owner: left neck
- ❖ 4th owner: right hind leg
- ❖ 5th owner: right shoulder
- ❖ 6th owner: right neck

BRANDING AGE

- ❖ By six (6) months of age



BRANDING OF LIVESTOCK

**STOCK BRANDS ACT (ACT NO 24 OF 1995)
As amended in 2004**



All sheep and goats must receive either an ear tag or a tattoo with the owner's stock brand by the age of 3 months or sooner if sold or moved from the farm earlier.

TAGGING ORDER AND PLACEMENT

- ❖ **1st owner: left ear further from head**
- ❖ **2nd owner: right ear further from head**
- ❖ **3^d owner: left ear closer to head**
- ❖ **4th owner: right ear closer to head**



HOW TO APPLY THE EAR TAGS



- Use the correct applicator
- Button RFID Tag to be inserted into the left ear. Flag Visual Tag into the right ear of the animal
- Both parts of the tag must display the same number
- Correct tag placement ensures better tag retention

1. ADVISE HOW TO APPLY THE TAGS

Apply the ear tag in the centre of the ear between the two veins.



2. USE A UNIVERSAL APPLICATOR TO APPLY THE TAGS

1. Remove the * black insert.
2. Apply the bigger part of the tag in the inner side of the ear.
3. Apply the smaller part of the tag on the outside of the ear.
4. Put both tags into the applicator and squeeze the applicator in one fast move.

